

Creation of new railway zone at Salem

534. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any proposal for creating a new railway zone with Salem as its Headquarters;
- (b) if so, the details of areas the new zone would comprise;
- (c) whether the present areas under Palakkad railway division would be shifted to the new zone;
- (d) if so, details thereof;
- (e) whether Government have assessed the revenue loss to Palakkad division in the future after its bifurcation; and
- (f) if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) As per earnings of Palghat Division from April 06 to January 07 revenue from the proposed jurisdictional portion of Palghat Division is 56.5% and that from the proposed jurisdiction of Salem Division is only 43.5% of total earnings.

Garib Rath

535. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY:
DR. PRABHA THAKUR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have introduced Garib Raths for the poor people;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) how it would be beneficial to the poor persons;

- (d) whether the fare is within reach of the poor persons;
- (e) if so, the details thereof;
- (f) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (g) the future action plan in regard to Garib Raths to each State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) The following Garib Rath trains have been introduced over Indian Railways:—

| SI.No. | Train No. | From—To and Frequency |
|--------|-----------|--|
| 1. | 2203/2204 | Saharsa-Amritsar (Bi-weekly) Nizamuddin- |
| 2. | 2353/2354 | Rajendranagar (Tri-weekly) Nizamuddin- |
| 3. | 2611/2612 | Chennai (Weekly) Nizamuddin-Bandra |
| 4. | 2909/2910 | Terminus (Tri-weekly) |

(c) The train service was introduced with fare lower than the existing air-conditioned fares so that poorer section of the travelling public can avail of aircondition facilities.

(d) The fare has been kept lower than the existing aircondition 3-tier and aircondition Chair Car so that poorer section of population can afford \\\

(e) Approximately the fare is lower by 37% to 50% in airconditioned 3 tier and 34% to 45% in air conditioned chair car.

(f) Does not arise.

(g) In the Railway Budget 2007-08, it. has been proposed to introduce 8 pairs of Garib Rath trains connecting .various state capitals, which are as follows:

1. Secunderabad-Yesvantpur Garib Rath Express (Tri-weekly)
2. Jaipur-Bandra (T) Garib Rath Express via Ahmedabad (Tri-weekly)
3. Kolkata-Patna Garib Rath Express (Tri-weekly)
4. Bhubaneswar-Ranchi Garib Rath Express (Tri-weekly)
5. Tiruvanthapuram-Lokmanya Tilak (T) Garib Rath Express (Bi-weekly)
6. Kolkata-Guwahati Garib Rath Express (Bi-weekly)
7. New Delhi-Dehradun Garib Rath Express (Tri-weekly)
8. Raipur-Lucknow Jn. Garib Rath Express (Bi-weekly)